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## Book Notices.

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### PUBLICATION OF THE EGYPTIAN MONUMENTS IN THE MUSEUM OF LEYDEN<sup>1</sup> (*Second Instalment*)

This second instalment of the great publication of the Egyptian monuments in the Leyden collections is a worthy successor of the first, already noticed in these pages.<sup>2</sup> It consists of a compact series of documents comprising the Middle Kingdom stelae of this important collection. Those falling in the obscure age between the Old and Middle Kingdoms are only two in number, leaving a series of fifty from the Middle Kingdom itself. They include all of the Leyden stelae of this age, so important for the chronology of the Twelfth Dynasty. The fifty-two stelae are reproduced by a heliotype process on forty plates. The mechanical excellence of these plates could not be surpassed. Not only the inscriptions but also all archaeological details are reproduced with clearness and beauty, making these forty plates a veritable treasury of materials for this great age. This volume together with the Cairo catalogue of Lange and Schaefer furnishes every library and university with a broad basis for the study of Middle Kingdom civilization. Dr. Boeser has supplied an excellent commentary for the plates, giving brief but clear descriptions, marked by great care and accuracy, and accompanied by a full bibliography. Besides the commentary-text, Boeser has also furnished an excellent series of exhaustive indices, including divine names, geographical names, personal proper names, titles, offices, callings, etc.

We congratulate Dr. Boeser and the Leyden Museum on this splendid instalment, continuing so worthily the high standard already established by the first section of their great publication.

JAMES HENRY BREASTED

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### EGYPTIAN PALEOGRAPHY<sup>3</sup>

Moeller opens the preface of his great work with these words: "In der vorliegenden Arbeit ist zum ersten Mal der Versuch gemacht die

<sup>1</sup> BESCHREIBUNG DER AEGYPTISCHEN SAMMLUNG DES NIEDERLÄNDISCHEN REICHSMUSEUMS DER ALTERTÜMER IN LEIDEN. Die Denkmäler der Zeit zwischen dem Alten und Mittleren Reich und des Mittleren Reichs. Erste Abteilung, Stelen, von Dr. P. A. A. Boeser. The Hague: Martinus Nijhoff, 1909.

<sup>2</sup> *AJSL*, Vol. XXIII, pp. 264 f.

<sup>3</sup> HIERATISCHE PALAEOGRAPHIE. Die Aegyptische Buchschrift in ihrer Entwicklung von der Fünften Dynastie bis zur römischen Kaiserzeit, dargestellt von Georg Moeller. Erster Band: Bis zum Beginn der Achtzehnten Dynastie. Zweiter Band: Von der Zeit Thutmosis' III bis zum Ende der Einundzwanzigsten Dynastie. Small folio. Leipzig: J. C. Hinrichs'sche Buchhandlung, 1909.

hieratische Schrift in ihrem ganzen Entwicklungsgange durch drei Jahrtausende darzustellen." The unique character of his work within the field of Egyptology is thus recognized at once. But it is not only unique within the limits of Egyptian or even of oriental studies. This work for the first time in history presents the development of a system of writing during three thousand years. Not only has no other system of writing been traced through so vast a lapse of time, but what is more to the point, no other system of writing is known which survived for three thousand years in continuous development leaving us the materials for such a study. Moeller's work therefore possesses a unique interest beyond the limits of a restricted specialty.

Egyptian writing has a special interest for us because it is the earliest writing known which employed pen, ink, and paper, these conveniences, indeed, having been bequeathed to civilization by Egypt, from which they have descended to us. The ancient oriental world elsewhere employed the cumbersome and inconvenient clay tablet, with a stylus for tracing the writing. Both methods, the tablet and stylus, and paper and pen, descended to the classic world. In Crete, as far back as 2000 B. C. (Middle Minoan II), the clay tablet was used side by side with pen and ink. The clay later gave way to wax tablets; and Egyptian paper, as the supply decreased, was supplanted by parchment, until the Moslems pushed into inner Asia and brought Chinese paper to Europe. The inconvenient tablet, whether of wax or clay, naturally disappeared as the handy rolls of Egyptian papyrus appeared in the Mediterranean market. Our first record of the exportation of papyrus from Egypt is in a list of presents from Egypt made to a Phoenician king in the twelfth century B. C., as cuneiform writing and the clay tablets were disappearing in Syria. The papyrus paper of Egypt carried to Europe even some of the scribal customs on the Nile. The Egyptian scribe's habit of writing with two inks, black and red, putting the introductory words of a new paragraph in red, has even descended through the cloisters of Europe to the modern printer.

It is the story of the first writing on paper, with pen and ink, ever practiced which Dr. Moeller has elaborated so carefully for us. The picture-writing with which all are familiar as "Egyptian hieroglyphics" goes back far into the fourth thousand years B. C., and probably into the fifth millennium B. C. Early in the dynastic age, that is in the thirty-fourth and thirty-third centuries B. C., the business and other economic records of the Egyptian people had resulted in such necessarily rapid memoranda, that the writer very much abbreviated the animal forms, implements, symbols and other hieroglyphic signs, as he wrote them on wood, ivory, potsherds and the like with ink. Thus began for the first time in human history the development of a cursive system of writing with pen and ink. Its use continued for over three thousand years, far

nto Roman times. It is indeed from a Christian writer that we have received the name by which we now designate this Egyptian cursive. Clement of Alexandria calls it *γράμματα ἱερατικά* (*Strom.* V, 4), because in his day it was used solely for the writing of sacred books.

As studied by Moeller, hieratic falls into four periods: I. Archaisch-hieratisch, II. Althieratisch, III. Mittelhieratisch, IV. Neuhieratisch. The last was, from the Twenty-second Dynasty (ended middle of eighth century B. C.) onward, rapidly supplanted for business and other ordinary affairs of life by a still more cursive and abbreviated hand already long existent, which now became the popular hand known to us as Demotic. "Neuhieratisch," however, continued in use for sacred books, and hence its name in the time of Clement of Alexandria. Moeller calls this later period of the hieratic "Spaethieratisch," and will devote his third volume to it, but because of its fixed and crystallized character, he does not include it in the above classification. The two volumes already out include "Archaisch-, Alt- und Mittelhieratisch" (I) and "Neuhieratisch" (II). The fourth volume will be devoted to the paleographic history, detailed discussion, and indices. The first three volumes therefore confine themselves to a carefully arranged series of plates presenting the materials without discussion, beyond the necessary introduction.

After introducing volume one with a brief discussion of the origin and development of hieratic, which includes also all the archaic hieratic material which has survived, Moeller proceeds to treat the scribe's equipment, pen, ink, and papyrus, especially the manufacture and varieties of the last, besides direction of lines, arrangement of pages and the like. An account of the Old and Middle Hieratic documents accessible for his purposes then introduces the seventy-six large plates of material presenting 612 signs and 77 ligatures. The plates are beautifully drawn, and admirably clear and perspicuous. In a column at the left appears the hieroglyphic prototype of each hieratic sign. Moeller has laboriously collected these hieroglyphic prototypes from the earliest documents accessible, and reproduced them with great accuracy. This collection of the earliest known forms of 612 hieroglyphs is of itself a very valuable feature of Moeller's work. Following the first column on the left containing these hieroglyphs, there are eleven columns, one for each document employed, filling the entire plate and containing the various hieratic forms of each hieroglyph in the left-hand column. If the materials have preserved them, there may be as many as eleven forms of each hieratic sign, one from each document, beginning with the Old Hieratic in the Fifth Dynasty (Isesi, twenty-seventh century B. C.) down to the end of the Middle Hieratic in the early Eighteenth Dynasty (sixteenth century B. C.). This first volume therefore furnishes the materials (including Archaic Hieratic) for a period of some 1400 years. If all eleven columns are filled with the successive forms of a given sign, its history may be traced

from century to century for nearly a millennium and a half. Moeller has collected and "facsimiled" on these plates, which he drew with his own hand, over four thousand forms in this first volume alone. Besides this work he has furnished some of the materials himself, especially the important new material from the alabaster quarry of Hatnub, the graffiti of which he copied from the walls of the quarry, thus filling out to some extent an otherwise glaring gap between the Old and Middle Kingdoms (Dynasties VII-X). At the end of the first volume are nine heliotype plates containing specimen pages of more important and typical papyri.

The second volume is introduced by preliminary discussions like those in the first, though of course without repeating the general remarks on hieratic. These remarks also enter upon the distinctions now observable between Upper and Lower Egyptian writing. The scribes of the Delta and vicinity evidently wrote a hand somewhat different from that prevailing in Upper Egypt. Seventy-four plates then present for the period included the continuation of the material found in volume one. This period is from about 1500 to 950 B. C., about five and a half centuries. In this period the more rapid cursive used by scribes taking dictation, or recording secretaries in the law courts, a form of rapid hand already observable at the close of the Old Kingdom (twenty-fifth century B. C.), diverges very widely from what may be called the stately "book-hand" studied by Moeller. As Moeller remarks, this rapid, flying cursive has developed so far by the end of the Twentieth Dynasty (twelfth century B. C.), that its common origin with that of the "book-hand" is scarcely discernable. The rapid cursive of this age may, as Moeller notes, well be called "Old Demotic," and within four centuries after the period covered by this volume, it had become the writing which we now designate Demotic. Moeller's work, however, is confined to the "book-hand," which, as we have noted above, now becomes the hand used for religious books, while the rapid cursive is employed only for business and other secular affairs. A convenient table of all signs treated in the volume is inserted at the end, followed by eight plates containing heliotype facsimiles of specimen pages from important documents, as in the first volume.

These two volumes together present the development of the daily writing of Egypt for some 2000 years, from the thirtieth to the tenth century B. C. In arrangement and execution, in care and accuracy, in the patient industry with which some eight thousand forms of signs have been collected, copied, built up into these monumental volumes and autographed with his own hand, the work is unique, and places us under a lasting obligation to the author, whom we can congratulate most heartily on his achievement. His work will form the standard on the subject and be one of the most indispensable, as it has long been one of the most needed, in the working library of the Egyptologist.

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